

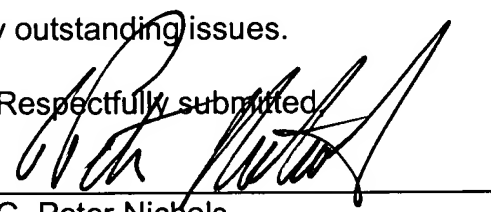
REMARKS

All the claims were rejected as being anticipated by 5,939,467 to Wnuck. Applicants traverse. The present claims require a biodegradable film that comprises a stretched precursor film formed from a biodegradable polymer and a water soluble polymer. The Examiner recognizes that Wnuck does not explicitly teach the claimed water vapor transmission rate or the elongation at break. Nevertheless, the Examiner contends that these claimed properties would necessarily result from the combination of the a biodegradable polymer and a water soluble polymer (each of which the Examiner contends is taught in Wnuck). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Example 7 of the present specification points out that the breathability of the biodegradable precursor film made from a blend of biodegradable and water soluble resins can be significantly enhanced and in when compared to plain Bionolle® resin, an improvement in breathability in the range of four times was demonstrated. In view of this finding, Applicants contend that the claimed breathability is achieved from the film of the subject invention and is not achieved with the material of Wnuck.

Applicants believe the present claims are allowable and respectfully request allowance of the application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4276 to resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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